

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 IO-11 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
----- 055870

R 201042Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION UN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 894

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CU, SW

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER PROJECTED CASTRO VISIT TO SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 322, (B) STOCKHOLM 850, (C) STOCKHOLM 753

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CONTROVERSY HAS ARISEN IN SWEDISH POLITICAL CIRCLES OVER  
THE PROJECTED VISIT TO SWEDEN OF CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL  
CASTRO (REF A). AT THE SAME MEETING OF THE FOREIGN POLICY  
COUNCIL WHICH APPROVED GOS RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA, MODRATE  
PATY LEADER GOSTA BOHMAN ASSERTED THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE  
TOINVITE CASTRO TO VISIT SWEDEN IN THE LIGHT OF CUBAN MILITARY  
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION FOR SOME TIME THAT  
CASTRO WOULD BE INVITED TO VISIT SWEDEN FOLLOWING THE SPTEMBER  
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, THE GOS HAD NEVER OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED  
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THAT A VISIT THIS YEAR WAS CONTEMPLATED. HOWEVER, THE

OPPOSITION PRESS REPORTED FEBRUARY 18 THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER CONSIDERED INVITING CASTRO TO VISIT SWEDEN THIS SPRING, BUT ON DUE REFLECTION, HAD DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE VISIT UNTIL OCTOBER (AFTER THE ELECTIONS). THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN CASTRO AND SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME ON THE VISIT, BUT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WAS KEEPING THE CORRESPONDENCE SECRET, REGARDING THE LETTERS AS "PRIVATE MESSAGES" RATHER THAN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

3. ON FEBRUARY 19, PALME AIDE PIERRE SCHORI DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH CORRESPONDENCE. HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT WHEN PALME HAD VISITED HAVANA IN JUNE 1975 HE HAD TENDERED AN INVITATION TO CASTRO TO VISIT SWEDEN AND THAT SUBSEQUENTLY THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM HAD INFORMED THE GOS THAT CASTRO WOULD BE PLEASED TO COME, BUT THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET. SCHORI ADDED THAT "IT IS UP TO THE CUBANS TO DECIDE WHEN THEY WANT TO COME."

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4. COMMENT: SCHORI'S COMMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GOS HAD EARLIER CONSIDERED SCHEDULING A CASTRO VISIT TO STOCKHOLM THIS SPRING IN LINE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLICY OF LARGEMLY REMAINING AT HOME THIS ELECTION YEAR AND RECEIVING THE HOMAGE OF FOREIGN LEADERS, BUT DECIDED THAT A VISIT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS BY THE CONTROVERSIAL CUBAN WAS TOO RISKY POLITICALLY. SOME WEEKS AGO, MFA OFFICIALS HAD ADVISED US THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS CONSIDERED BUT LATER ABANDONED (REF A). OPPOSITION LEADER BOHMAN IS EXPLOITING THE CURRENT SWEDISH CONCERN AT CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO PALME'S TIES WITH THE CUBAN LEADER. FOR HIS PART, PALME CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUT THE VISIT ON THE BACK-BURNER UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE OUT OF THE WAY, IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY IDEOLOGICAL ATTRACTION CASTRO MAY HOLD FOR HIM.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, RECOGNITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, INVITATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STOCKH00894  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760065-0348  
**From:** STOCKHOLM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760228/aaaaaygn.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STOCKHOLM 322, 76 STOCKHOLM 850, 76 STOCKHOLM 753  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTROVERSY OVER PROJECTED CASTRO VISIT TO SWEDEN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, CU, SW, AO, MPLA, (CASTRO, FIDEL), (PALME, OLAF), (BOHMAN, GOSTA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006